

REMARKS

By this amendment, Applicant has amended claims 32 and 34 to re-write them in independent form. Claims 5, 7, 11, and 33 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 28, 29, 32, 32, and 34 remain for consideration in the application.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5, 11 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balsom (U.S. Patent No. 5,592,596) in view of Hayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,304,525). Claims 5, 11, and 33 have been cancelled, rendering the rejection moot.

Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Balsom (U.S. Patent No. 5,592,596) in view of Hayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,304,525). Claim 7 has been cancelled, rendering the rejection moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 32 and 24 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has amended claims 32 and 34 to incorporate the limitations of their base claims. Applicant thus respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection, and allowance of claims 32 and 34.

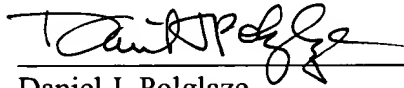
Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 28, 29 and 31 were allowed.

CONCLUSION

After this amendment, Applicant submits that all claims are either allowed or have been indicated as allowable, and requests that a notice of allowance be issued in the application. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at (612) 312-2203.

Respectfully submitted,

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